Recently Government have decided to set up 100 growth centres during the next five years all over the country. The identification of centres will be done in consultation with the State Governments concerned.

Request for Royalty on crude oil by Maharashtra Government

677. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Government have requested the Central Government for royalty on Oil and Natural Gas extracted from Bombay High and similar off-shore structures near Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra has requested the Central Government for payment of royalty on off-shore production of oil and gas to the concerned maritime States. Payment of royalty on production of mineral oil is governed by the provisions of the Oil Fields (Regulation & Development) Act, 1948 and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 1959 under which royalty on offshore production of oil and gas is payable to the Central Government only.

Natural gas reserves

678. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present quantum of natural gas reserves in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that large reserves have been discovered recently in some parts of the country; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the target of natural gas reserves expected by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan period as compared to the Sixth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) As on 1-1-88, the balance recoverable reserves of natural gas in the country is about 579 Billion cubic metres.

(b) The balance recoverable reserves of natural gas as on 1-1-85 was 478.63 billion cubic metres and this has increased to 579 billion cubic metres as on 1-1-88. The increase in reserves is mainly in Gujarat, Western offshore, Assam and Assam-Arakkan fold belt.

(c) The balance recoverable reserves of gas at the end of Sixth Plan plan period was about 478 billion cubic metres. The target for the Seventh Five Year Plan is addition of about 331 billion cubic metres of ags reserves.

Recovery of overcharged amounts from drug companies

679. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the measures announced in December, 1986 the amount overcharged by the drug companies has to be recovered;

(b) if so, the names of the drug companies against which different courts passed judgements for the recovery of overcharged amounts;

(c) whether his Ministry has worked out the overcharged amount of each company;

(d) if so, what is the amount worked out against each;

(e) what is the amount recovered from each company upto the 15th July, 1988 and what is the balance to be recovered alongwith the reasons for non-recovery;

(f) what are the heads under which the amount so collected will be spent and how much amount has so far been spent under each head; and